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Capital Letter:

Nixon Rides Another Storm

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WASHINGTON: Some people are accident prone. There is no explanation for this phenomenon, any more than there is for the equally strange fact that certain persons are naturally controversial.

Virtually every neighborhood knows such individuals: the child who is constantly breaking something, or the man who is forever putting his foot in it, by starting arguments when he only meant to help.

If politics becomes the career of such men, they are usually hated or loved. There is no comfortable middle ground; no tolerant cross-section of the electorate willing to "give them the benefit of the doubt."

At their first stumble, ghouls are eagerly waiting to pounce. Their slightest mistakes are magnified out of proportion. Such individuals are often brilliant and constructive, with marvelous talents that can advance the nation's good; yet their every act has a tendency to incite violent arguments between those who admire and dislike them.

Richard M. Nixon is such a man. Able, fearless, and dedicated to the good of his country, he nevertheless creates fierce controversy wherever he goes, and whatever he does. A series of accidents have dogged his career.

His newly published book, "Six Crises," tells in his own words the major hurdles and flaptoes of his career.

[Editor's note: The first and exclusive newspaper serialization of Mr. Nixon's book starts in tomorrow's *Journal-American*.]

Typically, the book itself has touched off at least two more crises for Richard M. Nixon:

1. A noisy controversy with the White House over whether Democratic Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy

was, or was not briefed by the CIA about our training of Cuban invading forces, before he proposed U.S. action during a televised debate with Nixon. Nixon will note Kennedy's "denial" in a footnote of the next edition, but he has not withdrawn the charge.

2. An error of fact in the chapter concerning his own role in the celebrated Alger Hiss case, which has brought demands by Hiss that his perjury conviction be voided. Nixon claimed a researcher goofed on the paragraph in question, and that it will be omitted from subsequent editions.

Two such major controversies involving a single volume can be good news for an author who merely wants to sell books, but it is doubtful whether they will help a world renowned politician capture the California governorship in a bitterly fought campaign.

If both were errors, Nixon at least made them in all honesty, and as usual had no intention of stirring up a hornet's nest. The book is exciting reading.

In it Nixon delineates certain "accidents" of his life, some helpful, some hurtful: The revelation of the private "fund," which almost lost him his place on the 1952 ticket; the terrifying anti-American rioting against him in Caracas; the kitchen clash with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, who was looking for trouble; and the poor make-up and lighting in his first TV debate with Kennedy.

Nixon can enjoy a large measure of "luck" in his career, both good and bad. Most politicians can, but some have much better breaks than others. Hervey Allen pinpointed the phenomenon, when in "Any Adverse" in 1933 he wrote:

"Certain people have the habit of being fortunate in their collision with events. This has little to do with their ability or character; it is a product of personality plus a dated life rhythm. Their cogs fit into events when others find no slots; hence, they turn with the wheels of the times and help turn them."

No one has said it better.